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It goes without saying, of course, that a study carried through in any such dogmatic frame of mind can promise little in the way of usefulness to serious students of municipal problems. Yet the author's bias might be in part condoned if he had deigned to give us anything more than the hackneyed data of a dozen years ago in support of his conclusions. This, however, he has not done. His statistics are in the main taken from the parliamentary reports of 1900 and 1903, or from official publications of only a slightly later date. The quotations are almost wholly out of the mouths of those who appeared before parliamentary committees as avowed opponents of public ownership when such matters were being threshed out a decade or more ago. The book contains no figures or facts of any consequence on municipal trading in England since 1906. The voluminous reports of the National Civic Federation, issued during the years 1907-1908, have been altogether ignored; they are not even mentioned in the bibliography. The author has no doubt expended a great deal of labor in the preparation of this monograph, but the outcome is far from being commensurate with his industry.

WILLIAM BENNETT MUNRO.

Les Partis Politiques sous la III^e République: Doctrine et Programme—Organisation et Tactique, d'après les Derniers Congrès. By LÉON JACQUES. (Paris: Recueil Sirey, 1913. Pp. xvi, 541.)

Few things are more puzzling to an American student of government than the organization and methods of political parties on the continent of Europe. This is due partly to the multiplicity of their number and partly to the absence of clearly differentiated lines of separation such as are found in countries where the two-party system prevails. In France, especially, the nature of the party system almost defies the power of comprehension. There, parties come into existence and disappear with kaleidoscopic rapidity; in their place new ones are formed with different names but professing substantially the same principles; there one finds conservatives and radicals of many shades, reactionaries, nationalists, progressists, union republicans, *gauches républicaines*, *unions démocratiques*, *gauches démocratiques*, *centres gauches*, *gauches radicales*, *gauches radicales socialistes*, radicals, radical socialists, socialists, independents, independent socialists, socialists unifiés and numerous others. Since the writing of M. Jacques' treatise, another addition has been made to the already long list: M. Briand's *fédération des gauches*, formed in December last. Parties in

France shade off into one another in such fashion that not even the French themselves are able to distinguish between them; what is considered radical in Calvados or Normandy is regarded as conservative in the Seine; the difficulty of comprehension is further increased by the existence of numerous groups and politico-social organizations that are sometimes classed as political parties and sometimes not. Finally, the lack of a scientific literature on the subject has still further added to the difficulty of the student who seeks information concerning their organization and principles.

It is somewhat singular that heretofore the French political writers in their treatises and in their periodicals have almost entirely ignored the subject of political parties. Aside from Laboulaye's *Le Parti Libérale*, a small book published in 1863, a series of more or less popular monographs on the socialist parties prepared under the editorship of Alexander Zevaes (Marcel Rivière 1910-1911), a collection of articles in the *Revue Hebdomadaire* for 1910, and an essay by M. Lagardelle published in the *Zeitschrift für Politik* last year, there has been little discussion of French parties by French writers.

In the book under review, we have the first serious attempt that has been made to present a comprehensive and scientific study of the history, organization, doctrines and methods of the French parties. It was prepared as a thesis in the University of Paris law school under the direction of Professor Larnaude, but in scope and character, it is far above the average French doctor's dissertation. Nowhere else is it possible to find such a wealth of information regarding every phase of the multifarious parties and groups with which France is afflicted, and it, therefore, meets a long felt need.

It is impossible in the brief compass of this review to analyze a treatise so comprehensive in scope and dealing with so many organizations. It must, therefore, suffice to describe, in a very general way, the character of the book. After some preliminary observations on political parties in general, the author proceeds to sketch the history of political parties in the national assembly of 1871-1876—the Legitimists, the Orleanists, the Bonapartists, the Catholic party, the left center, the Republican party, and others of less importance. He next considers in turn what he calls the great parties of today: the Royalists, the Monarchists, the Bonapartists, the Progressists, the *Parti républican radical et radical socialiste* and the Socialist unifiés. In a succeeding book, he takes up what he calls the secondary or intermediate parties; the Conservatives,

the *Plébiscitaires*, the *Action libérale populaire*, the *Parti républicain démocratique*, the *Parti républicain socialiste* and the rest.

In connection with the study of each party, he discusses such matters as doctrines, organization, methods and strength both in the country and the chambers. An important contribution is his discussion of the party press, which plays a greater rôle in French political life than does the American or English press. In the appendix is to be found a collection of party platforms ("programmes" they are called in France) together with the statutes of a number of the more important parties (it will be remembered that in France each political party is required by law to have a body of statutes and to file these with the prefect). As I have said, M. Jacques' treatise is the first of its kind, and it is a work which bears the earmarks of indefatigable research, scholarship and good judgment. As such, it will be of great value to students of French politics.

JAMES W. GARNER.

The Civil Service of Great Britain. By ROBERT MOSES, Ph.D. Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. Vol. LVII, No. 1. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1914. Pp. 324.)

It is a curious fact that both of the two histories of the civil service of Great Britain have been written by Americans. Both were undertaken with the idea of holding up the British civil service as a model for the United States to follow, although the particular lesson to be inculcated is very different in the case of this new study by Dr. Moses, from that urged by Mr. Dorman B. Eaton in his volume published over thirty years ago. Mr. Eaton wrote his book as a report of his mission to England, where he had been sent by President Hayes when the reform of the American civil service and the abolition of the spoils system were being agitated. Mr. Eaton carried the history of the British civil service from the Norman Conquest to the end of the seventies of last century. Dr. Moses in his new volume is concerned with the more recent history of the civil service, and mainly with the classification into two divisions, and the practical reservation of the higher division for men who have been educated at the older universities. He begins his story in 1853, and reviews the changes which substituted competition for patronage, and swept away the many idle, incapable and unprofitable servants with which the service had been loaded.